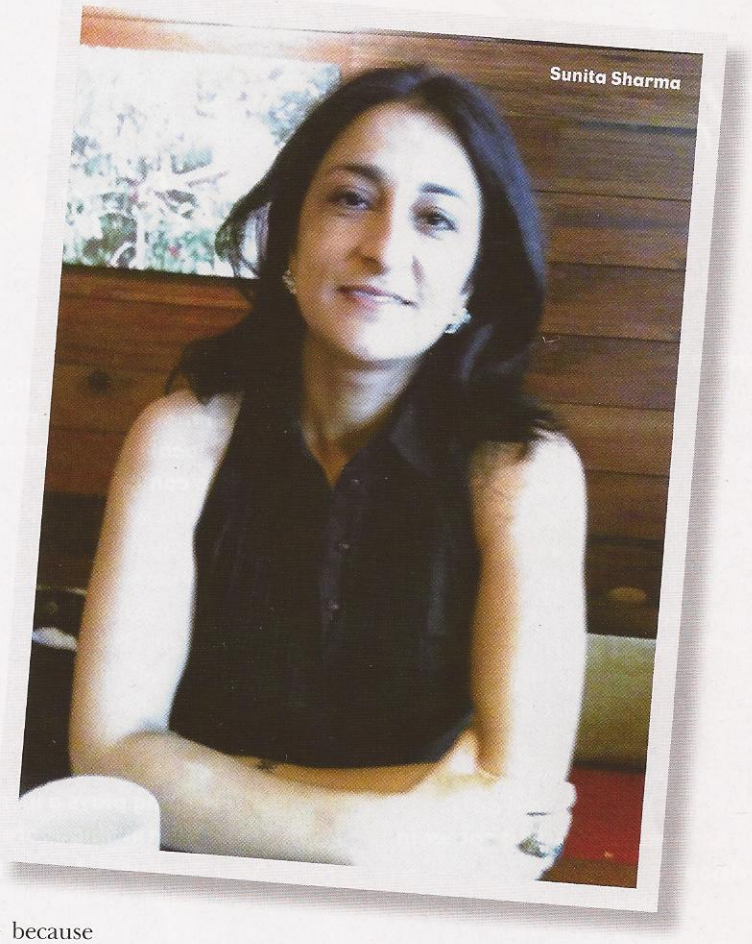
SET *Pen* TO *Paper*



By a **STAFF REPORTER**

Scriptwriter, editor, teacher and chartered accountant - Sunita Sharma has donned different hats at different times of her life. But writing is something that gives her utmost satisfaction. I write because I like to write," said Sharma who wrote the script for *Trikon - The War Within*, a musical based on the great Indian epic the *Mahabharata*.

The 43-year-old's tryst with theatre began when she acted and wrote a part for *Friendly Fire*, a production by Singapore-based NRI Shalaka Ranadive. Soon, the latter approached her to write the script of *Trikon*.

With many versions of the *Mahabharata* already being staged, Sharma decided to focus on the three female leads – Draupadi, Gandhari and Kunti – thus giving a woman's perspective.

"The original epic is male-dominated. There is very little that we know about what the three women thought. The script was my perspective of how they must have felt. I also tried to throw light on relationships between husband and wife, brothers and so on," she elaborated.

"I am attracted to projects that have an appeal. Dance, drama and music are all very dear to me and the fact that theatre combines them just inspires me. Plus, the concept was so interesting that I just couldn't say no," added Sharma.

With immense interest in children's literature and Asian philosophy, Sharma is now looking forward to being a part of the National Council's literary festival this year. "I want to write lyrical books for children similar to Indian fables like the *Panchatantra*," she said.

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Apart from writing, Sharma is currently enjoying being a teacher. She gives home-tuitions to school and college going students in French, Mathematics, English Literature, Accounts and so on. She also edits *Namaste India* magazine. Sharma gave up her career as a chartered accountant when she moved to Singapore three-and-a-half years ago to pursue her other interests. "I did not want a business career here," she said.

Born and brought up in the UK, Sharma graduated in Biochemistry from Brunel University, London and went on to study chartered accountancy. She holds a diploma in creative writing and has great love for languages. She can speak French and German fluently and can also read and write in Hindi. "Writing and reading has always been a hobby. My range has been pretty wide – from business plans to poetry. But I have no plans to make writing a full-time career," said Sharma.

A mother of three, Sharma's family has been supportive in whatever she chooses to do. "I'm multitasking - reading, writing, teaching, editing and therefore their support is essential," she said.

So is writing remunerative? "Sponsorships are good enough for me. Financial aspect is secondary; in fact I have never looked at monetary gains - I just love to write," concluded Sharma.